Daniel

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August 4, 1972 [213] 489-7740

Mr. Chris Chandler
% Bernard Weissbourd
111 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Chandler:

Stanley Sheinbaum of the Ellsberg-Russo Defense Team requested that I send you the attached material. It contains facts and recommendations I have submitted to Congress and elsewhere to show the urgent need for effectively correcting Executive branch secrecy practices.

I am serving as consultant to the Defense Team on government security policies and procedures. I was given a copy of the background papers sent to John Holun of Senator McGovern's office, and have recommended that the Defense Team contribute to the education of the country about the secrecy issues, with emphasis on eliminating the Security Classification hoax.

You very likely already have the testimony I gave Representative Moorhead's committee in 1971 and 1972 (I noted your use of my 99.9%-unneccessary-classification factor.) But you will find these other papers of interest also. One item which I do not have here is an article which I wrote for the Democratic National Committee Policy Council's campaign guidance book. My article is on "Issues in Classifying and Protecting National Defense Information." It was overtaken somewhat by issuance of Executive order 11652, but my testimony of May3,1972 before the Moorhead Committee serves as an adequate "up-date."

As a matter of deep personal concern, I would hope that no suggestion is made to Senator McGovern that he support legislation for a separate commission to operate in the arena of security classification and censorship. This country does not need another layer of management to review administration matters of the Executive branch and give blessing to any secrecy whatever. Nor do we need a statutory tangle of multi-classifications for national defense data, such as has been proposed in this session of Congress.

I strongly believe that legislation reflecting the principles suggested in the attached draft of a bill I prepared would be best for this nation. It would (1) capture the defense secrecy field for Congress, and (2) provide a very narrow authorization for the Executive branch to hold defense data from the public under a "would damage" standard, with assurance of Congressional scrutiny.

As an additional personal matter, I would be pleased to help in the planning and orientation effort as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Wm. G. (Bill) Florence

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